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GROSSULARIA AND RIBES SPECIES IN THE NORTHEASTERN STATES.\*

(Practical key for men employed in blister rust control)

GROSSULARIA (gooseberries) - usually erect or ascending growth - stems with nodal spines - leaves small - racemes few flowered - color of fruit of wild species red to purple. Generic term Ribes is commonly used to indicate gooseberries as well as currants.

cynosbati (prickly gooseberry) - stems and branches with nodal spines and with internodal prickles or bristles - new twigs gray or brown - leaves 3 to 5 lobed, hairy above and below, rather thin, square at base - fruit with coarse almost spiny bristles. Distribution: New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

hirtella (smooth gooseberry) - stems and branches often lacking nodal spines and prickles or bristles - new twigs gray or brown - leaves 3 to 5 lobed, smooth, rather thick, wedge-shaped base - leaf petioles usually with branched hairs - fruit smooth, purplish to black. This species is very similar to oxyacanthoides. Distribution: New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

missouriensis (Missouri gooseberry) - stem and branches with long red nodal spines, 1/3 to 3/4 inch long - prickles or bristles often lacking - new twigs white - leaves 3 to 5 lobed, hairy below, square base - fruit smooth. Distribution: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

oxyacanthoides (northern smooth gooseberry) - stems and branches with nodal spines, and with or without internodal prickles or bristles - new twigs gray or brown - leaves 5 lobed, broader than long, smooth, wedge-shaped base - fruit smooth. Distribution: northern Michigan and possibly northern Minnesota.

reclinata (cultivated gooseberry) - escaped from cultivation - growth ascending - stems with stout spines, usually in threes - older wood often bristly - leaves hairy, 3 to 5 lobed - flowers green - fruit yellow to red, more or less hairy, glandular, bristly.

rotundifolia (smooth gooseberry) - stem and branches smooth, but with nodal spines (single or in twos, very short, often wanting) - leaves 3 lobed, rounded at base, petioles smooth - leaf petioles without branched hairs - fruit smooth, yellow to purple. Distribution: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and in Michigan only at Thunder Bay, Alpena County.

\*Distribution as indicated in this Key refers only to those States interested in blister rust control, i.e., New England, the Middle Atlantic States, and three northern Lake States.



RIBES (currants) - usually erect growth, except lacustre, triste, and glandulosum - stems smooth, without spines or prickles, except lacustre - leaves heart-shaped, large, except lacustre, aureum, and odoratum - branches round, except americanum - racemes, several to many-flowered.

americanum (wild black currant) - sometimes cultivated - stems smooth - branches angular - leaves resin-dotted on both sides, broader than long, thin, 3 to 5 lobed - fruit smooth, black. Distribution: New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

aureum and odoratum (cultivated flowering currant or spice bush) - stems and branches smooth - leaves thick and leathery, 3 to 5 lobed, lobes entire or toothed at ends, usually hairy; leaves of odoratum square-shaped base, those of aureum wedge-shaped base and smaller than odoratum - flowers yellow, pleasing odor - fruit of odoratum black - fruit of aureum yellow, red or black. Ribes aureum native in Minnesota - both species are extensively planted as ornamental shrubs.

glandulosum (skunk currant) - prostrate growth, rooting at nodes, with upright shoots - leaves 3 to 5 lobed, leaves and stems with strong skunk-like odor when crushed, leaves hairy below, broader than long, petioles smooth - fruit glandular, bristly, red. Distribution: New England States (except Rhode Island), New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and at very high elevations, above 4800 ft., in West Virginia.

hudsonianum (Hudson Bay currant or northern black currant) - erect growth - stems and branches smooth and round - leaves 3 to 5 lobed, strong smell when crushed, broader than long, resin-dotted, hairy below - racemes upright - flower white - fruit smooth, black. Distribution: Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

lacustre (prickly currant) - growth reclined or erect - stems and branches with nodal spines in threes, and internodal prickles - new twigs reddish - leaves thin, 5 to 7 lobed, smooth, not broader than long, resembles leaves of Grossularia cynosbati, but more deeply lobed - fruit bristly and purple black. Distribution: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

nigrum (cultivated black currant) - rarely escapes from cultivation - stems smooth and round - leaves with yellow resin dots on lower surface, thick, 3 to 5 lobed, broader than long, smooth - fruit black, smooth, pungent, somewhat musky.

rubrum or vulgare (cultivated red currant) - frequently escapes cultivation - leaves 3 to 5 lobed, thick, hairy below when young, not resin dotted, not broader than long - when stems or leaves are crushed odor mild, not pungent - flowers yellowish green - fruit red or white, smooth, shiny, tart flavored.

triste (swamp red currant) - growth creeping or ascending - stems and branches smooth - large leaves, 3 to 5 lobed, rounded base, broader than long, in shape resembles a red maple leaf - densely hairy beneath - flowers smoky yellow to purple - fruit smooth, red, small. Distribution: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

E. C. Filler, Senior Pathologist - June 15, 1929.

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# FIELD CHARACTERS OF EASTERN CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES





